Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of predicting the search needs of a computerized database search user comprising the steps of:

providing a topical category database, said topical category database containing a plurality of topical categories;

relating each of said topical categories with other said topical categories contained within said topical category database;

providing a document database, said document database having respective document information for a plurality of documents;

assigning each of said documents to at least one said topical category;

providing an anticipated search term database, said anticipated search term database having at least one anticipated search term;

assigning each of said anticipated search terms in said anticipated search term database to at least one said topical category thereby creating an anticipated search term assignment;

receiving at least one initial search term;

matching said initial search term with at least one said anticipated search term contained within said anticipated search term database thereby creating a matched search term;

associating said initial search term with the topical category assigned to said matched

search term thereby creating an initial topical category;

associating said initial search term to all topical categories related to said initial

topical category thereby creating related categories; and

<u>automatically</u> retrieving said document information of said documents assigned to

said related categories.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 where each said topical category is defined

with a title and description.

4.   (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of relating each of said

topical categories with other said topical categories contained within said topical category

database further comprises the step of relating each of said topical categories with other relevant

topical categories.

5.   (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of relating each of said

topical categories with other said topical categories contained within said topical category

database further comprises the step of relating each of said topical categories with other related

topical categories.

6.   (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of relating each of said

topical categories with other said topical categories contained within said topical category

database further comprises the step of relating each of said topical categories with other adjunct

topical categories.

3

7.   (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of assigning each of said

documents to at least one said topical category further comprises the step of assigning each of

said documents to a relevant topical category.

8.   (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of assigning each of said

anticipated search terms in said anticipated search term database to at least one said topical

category thereby creating an anticipated search term assignment further comprises the step of

assigning each of said anticipated search terms to a topical category based on said anticipated

search term's definition.

9.   (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of associating said initial

search term with the topical category assigned to said matched search term thereby creating an

initial topical category further comprises the step of calculating the most popular initial topical

category for said matched search term.

10.   (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the step of calculating the most

popular initial topical category for said matched search term further comprises the step of

calculating the number of times a topical category is selected by other searchers in association

with each said initial search term used.

11.   (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 9 further comprising the step of calculating

the number of times said initial search term is repeated within the content of said document

assigned to said topical category.

12.   (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 9 further comprising the step of subjectively

determining said most popular initial topical category.

4

13.   (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said initial search term comprises at least one word.

14.   (Currently amended) A method of predicting the search needs of a computerized database search user comprising the steps of:

    providing a topical category database, said topical category database containing a plurality of topical categories;

    relating each of said topical categories with other said topical categories contained within said topical category database;

    providing a document database, said document database having document information for at least one document;

    assigning each of said documents to at least one said topical category;

    providing an anticipated search term database, said anticipated search term database having at least one anticipated search term;

    assigning each of said anticipated search terms in said anticipated search term database to at least one said topical category thereby creating an anticipated search term assignment;

    receiving at least one initial search term;

    matching said initial search term with at least one said anticipated search term contained within said anticipated search term database thereby creating a matched search term;

    associating said initial search term with the topical category assigned to said matched search term thereby creating an initial topical category;

5

associating said initial search term to all topical categories related to said initial

topical category thereby creating related categories;

automatically retrieving said document information of said documents assigned to

said related categories, thereby created retrieved documents; and

displaying said retrieved document information.

15.   (Currently amended) A method of predicting the search needs of a computerized

database search user comprising the steps of:

providing a topical category database, said topical category database containing a

plurality of topical categories;

relating each of said topical categories with other said topical categories contained

within said topical category database;

providing a document database, said document database having respective document

information for a plurality of documents;

assigning each of said documents to at least one said topical category;

providing an anticipated search term database, said anticipated search term database

having at least one anticipated search term;

assigning each of said anticipated search terms in said anticipated search term

database to at least one said topical category thereby creating an anticipated search term

assignment;

receiving at least one initial search term;

6

matching said initial search term with at least one said anticipated search term

contained within said anticipated search term database thereby creating a matched search

term;

associating said initial search term with the topical category assigned to said matched

search term thereby creating an initial topical category;

associating said initial search term to any topical categories related to said initial

topical category thereby creating related categories; and

automatically retrieving said document information of any said documents assigned

to any said related categories, irrespective of a relevancy between said initial search term and

any said related categories.

16. (Currently amended) A method of predicting the search needs of a computerized

database search user comprising the steps of:

providing a topical category database, said topical category database containing a

plurality of topical categories;

relating each of said topical categories with other said topical categories contained

within said topical category database;

providing a document database, said document database having respective document

information for a plurality of documents;

assigning each of said documents to at least one said topical category;

providing an anticipated search term database, said anticipated search term database

having at least one anticipated search term;

7

assigning each of said anticipated search terms in said anticipated search term

database to at least one said topical category thereby creating an anticipated search term

assignment;

receiving at least one initial search term;

matching said initial search term with at least one said anticipated search term

contained within said anticipated search term database thereby creating a matched search

term;

associating said initial search term with the topical category assigned to said matched

search term thereby creating an initial topical category;

associating said initial search term to any topical categories related to said initial

topical category thereby creating related categories; and

automatically retrieving said document information of any said documents assigned

to any of said related categories, including said document information of any said documents

assigned to related categories which are not relevant to said initial search term.